



ALMOST HIDDEN FROM SIGHT, this monument to Utah's past lies within a stone's throw of I-15. However, few travelers

ever see it and it lies almost forgotten, even though it represents one of the most exciting events of American history.

Monuments Should Be Seen, Not Herded Away

By JACK E. EMMERSON

While not a dyed-in-the-wool historian, this reporter considers himself, at the very minimum, a history buff.

I am fully appreciative of what has gone before and painfully aware of the American habit of relinquishing to the past, without much consideration, the lives and accomplishments of others.

Having traveled much of these United States I can say, without equivocation, every state I have visited suffers from the same malady when it comes to placing commemorative markers, and Utah is no different.

They are usually posthumously erected, often amidst much pomp and ceremony, then promptly forgotten with the exception of a few scholars or historians.

For some unknown reason many of these monument and roadside markers are placed in such a position that they can't be read by passing motorists. And, if you do stop to read the inscriptions, you place the lives of both yourself and family in jeopardy.

To compound this historical felony, time passes and roads are moved or abandoned, and a significant marker is sadly forgotten.

This reporter recently found such a marker. It had obviously been placed prominently along a well traveled highway at one time, but new roads,

high weeds and trees left it isolated. Even worse, a fence had been constructed across the only path leading to it.

Fortunately someone had breached that fence permitting access to the monument. I say fortunately because I believe it is not on private property and should be open to the public.

You may recognize this stone marker as commemorating the old Rockwell Station on the Pony Express Route which sliced through this area 1858 to 1868.

The marker proclaims it was erected on Oct. 10, 1934, and the National Pony Express Centennial Association added another marker in the commemorative year of 1960-61.

Where is it? Well, if you are ever visiting the Utah State Prison, this marker rests outside of the southeast corner of the fence surrounding the prison.

It sits back a considerable distance from the highway and is almost imperceptible to the eye. Only a curious traveler with courage would wander off the beaten track to discover what was sequestered in those forbidden bushes.

Oddly enough, with a little effort and "for a few dollars more," as Clint Eastwood would say, the whole area could be turned into an asset instead of the developing eyesore which it now threatens to become.

Pony Express
Sep 1977



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